THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Commercial Banks are already making substantial flow of credit to farmers. The Ground Level Credit (GLC) flow to agriculture in the country was Rs. 1,57,480 crore during 2005-06 registering a growth of 26% over the previous year.

(b) Farmers are not able to repay their loans due to a variety of reasons.

(c) At present there is no scheme to give assistance in place of Bank loan.

Non-payment of dues by BCCI

3989. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the huge earning sports board in the country, BCCI, had not paid any outstanding dues of taxes of Rs. 361 crore since the last three years;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for recovering the tax money from the BCCI;

(d) whether Government are observing BCCI's financial decisions as there has been lot of criticisms going on about the financial misappropriation; and

(e) if so, what are Government's views and response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) All taxes raised against BCCI have been paid. There are no outstanding dues of taxes of Rs. 361 crore. A demand of Rs. 35.36 lakhs has been recently raised in the month of March, 2006 for A.Y. 2003-04 and the same will be recovered at the earliest.

(b) does not arise.

(c) does not arise.

(d) Returns of income are regularly filed. Details as required, are filed at the time of assessment. No evidence of misappropriation or irregularity has been noticed. No complaint of such nature has also been received

by the Directorate of Exemption, Mumbai or has been filed before the Assessing Officer.

(e) Does not arise.

Exemption of imported vegetable oil from Sri Lanka

†3990. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether vegetable oil imported from Sri Lanka is exempted from duty under the Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement;

(b) whether it is adversely affecting the vegetable oil produced by Indian Vegetable Oil Industry and on the revenue of the Central Government; and

(c) if so, steps proposed to be taken to rectify it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Hydrogenated vegetable oils commonly known as vanaspati imported from Sri Lanka attracts nil customs duty as per commitments under Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement, however, it is subjected to 4% additional duty of customs.

(b) and (c) Hydrogenated vegetable oil industry has been complaining about the adverse effects of duty free import from Sri Lanka. Imports at zero customs duty will have an effect on revenue, but such imports are governed by Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement. This exemption is, however, subject to fulfillment of domestic value addition of 35% and change of tariff heading at 4-digit level.

Central fund for welfare of disabled people

3991. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court created a central fund for the welfare of disabled people under the chairmanship of Comptroller and Auditor General, wherein over Rs. 723 crores would be deposited annually from the money illegally accumulated by Banks by rounding off interest rates payable by borrowers;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.